

REMARKS

Claims 13-17, 19-24, 29-33, 35-40, 45-49, 51-55, and 57-64 are pending in the present application. By this reply, claims 18, 25-28, 34, 41-44, 50 and 56 have been cancelled and claims 57-64 have been added. Claims 13, 21, 29, 37 and 61 are independent claims.

The above amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and do not add any new matter to the disclosure.

Interview Request

Applicants hereby officially request a personal interview with the Examiner. Please contact Applicants' representative, Esther H. Chong (Reg. No. 40,953) at 703-205-8074 to schedule the interview prior to the issuance of another action if the present Amendment does not place the application in condition for allowance. This is an official request and should not be ignored by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 13, 14, 16-30 and 32-56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Setogawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,246,401). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has equated Setogawa et al.'s monitor 332 to Applicants' "video apparatus", and has equated Setogawa et al.'s DVD player (mentioned but not illustrated) to

Applicants' "disc device" required in the independent claims. According to this interpretation, however, Setogawa et al. fails to teach each and every element recited in the independent claims.

Particularly, Setogawa et al. is directed to a DVD recording apparatus 1 as shown in FIG. 5 that allows a user to create his own menu settings and stores the user-preferred menu settings on a DVD by using a recording device 108, which is part of the DVD recording apparatus 1. Then a separate DVD player (which Setogawa et al. does not illustrated) can take the DVD and play it. The DVD recording apparatus 1 includes a menu preparation portion 3 as shown in FIG. 8 that allows the menu settings to be selected by the user.

In Setogawa et al., there is no teaching that the recording apparatus 1 including the monitor 332 (which the Examiner equates to Applicants' 'video apparatus') is connected to the DVD player via the digital interface (which is required by the independent claims), wherein the digital interface is an IEEE 1394 interface (which is required by the dependent claims). In response, on page 8, lines 4-8 of the Office Action dated Dec. 15, 2004, the Examiner maintains her position by stating that Setogawa et al. teaches "the monitor, which is part of the "Menu Preparation", is connected to the recording apparatus through multiplexing interface components." Here the 'recording apparatus' in the Examiner's statement seems to refer to the recording device 108 in FIG. 5 of Setogawa et al. However, Setogawa et al. does not teach that the recording device 108 is able to reproduce contents from a recording medium, which is required by the independent claims (i.e., the disc device as claimed is able to reproduce some content from a recording medium). Further, the multiplexed 106 is not an IEEE 1394 interface as required by some dependent claims.

Rather Setogawa et al. seems to teach that once a user authors how the menus are to be presented, such menu screen data is recorded on a DVD 110 so that the DVD 110, when inserted into a DVD player, would allow a generation of menus that are user-preferred. As such, it is neither obvious nor inherent that the connection exists between the monitor 332 and the DVD player. Therefore, Setogawa et al. nowhere teaches or suggests a video/audio apparatus connected to a disc device via a digital interface.

Accordingly, Setogawa et al. fails to anticipate, *inter alia*:

A menu-driven remote control method of a video apparatus connected to a disc device via a digital interface, the disc device being able to reproduce a recording medium with contents recorded thereon, the method comprising . . . :

(a) displaying, on the video apparatus, a first menu page, the first menu page including first type menu items associated with functions or operations of said disc device and a second type menu item for requesting a new menu page that is suppliable from the recording medium

as recited in independent claim 13;

(a) connecting the audio apparatus to a disc device via a digital interface, the disc device being able to reproduce an audio signal from a recording medium recorded with at least said audio signal . . .

(c) presenting, on the audio apparatus, the received menu items in non-graphical form, and sending selection information about a menu item selected from the presented menu items to said disc device that reproduces the recorded audio signal of the recording medium in response to the selection information

as recited in independent claim 21;

A menu-driven remote control apparatus for a video apparatus connected to a disc device via a digital interface, the disc device being able to reproduce a recording medium with contents recorded thereon, the control apparatus comprising:

(a) means for displaying a first menu page on the video apparatus, the first menu page including first type menu items associated with functions or operations of said disc device and a second type menu item for requesting a new menu page that is suppliable from the recording medium

as recited in independent claim 29; and

(a) means for connecting the audio apparatus to a disc device via a digital interface, the disc device being able to reproduce an audio signal from a recording medium recorded with at least said audio signal. . .

(c) means for presenting, on the audio apparatus, the received menu items in non-graphical form, and sending selection information about a menu item selected from the presented menu items to said disc device that reproduces the recorded audio signal of the recording medium in response to the selection information

as recited in independent claim 37.

In the alternative, regarding some dependent claims (e.g., claim 51) that require the video apparatus to be a digital TV, the Examiner cites col. 16, lines 54-64 of Setogawa et al. to support her position. However, this portion only teaches that the monitor 332 includes a CRT display device 302 and an input device 304 having a keyboard and mouse. But the disclosure of a CRT display device does not equate to a disclosure of a digital TV. A computer can have a CRT screen. A CRT display device merely refers to a particular type of a display screen, and cannot be equated to disclose a digital TV, as required by the claims.

Accordingly, the invention as recited in independent claims 13, 21, 29, and 37 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency) is patentable over Setogawa et al., and the rejection should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 15 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Setogawa et al. et al. in view of Dinallo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,857). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Setogawa et al. fails to teach or suggest at least the above noted features recited in independent claims 13 and 29 from which claims 15 and 31 respectively depend. Further, Dinallo et al. fails to overcome these deficiencies of Setogawa et al. since Dinallo et al. is merely relied on for teaching the specific menu items such as play-back, stop, pause, etc. Therefore, even if the references are combinable, assuming *arguendo*, the combination of references would still fail to teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent claims 13 and 29 and their dependent claims (due to their dependency). Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

New Claims

Claim 57-64 are allowable over the prior art of record for their dependent on the independent claims, or for features recited similar to those in other independent claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

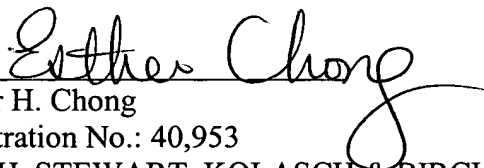
Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Esther H. Chong (Registration No. 40,953) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a three-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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